



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release TO THE PAPERS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1945. W.

The United States fishing industry, in spite of restoration of its fleet to nearly normal size, probably will be unable to produce enough fish and shellfish in 1945 to meet the goals established by the War Food Administration for the current year, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes said today.

The shortage of manpower in processing plants and transportation difficulties may be the chief obstacles to increased production, according to Mr. Ickes, and may largely counterbalance the effect of recent gains in the size of the fishing fleet.

Although heavy production of fresh and frozen fish is predicted, the yield of all other classes of fishery products—canned, salted, and cured fish, and fish meal and oil—is expected to fall considerably below the quantities which the War Food Administration considers necessary to meet all requirements.

Charles E. Jackson, assistant deputy coordinator of fisheries, said that because of heavy requirements of the military services, relief agencies, and other government claimants, the need for increased production of canned fish is acute. While requirements are subject to frequent revision according to the progress of the war, the present 1945 goal is 811,000,000 pounds (netweight) of canned fish and shellfish. This represents a catch of somewhat more than a billion and a half pounds of fish of the types suitable for canning—salmon, sardines, tuna, and mackerel. However, Mr. Jackson doubted that the 1945 catch will permit production of more than about 665,000,000 pounds of canned fishery products.

Requirements of fish meal for livestock and poultry feeding have been set at 265,000 tons. A separate goal for fish oils has not been established, since production of oil and meal is closely related.

Although the 265,000-ton goal for fish meal is considerably less than the need for this type of animal feed, the Coordinator's Office estimates that domestic production will fall short of the mark by about 65,000 tons. Officials of the War Food Administration have requested that priority should be given to production of foods for direct human consumption.

Fish meal is derived chiefly from menhaden, Alaska herring, and Pacific sardines, of which only the sardine is also an important source of food. These species are also the principal sources of industrial fish oils.

The 1945 goal for cured fish is 90,000,000 pounds, marketed weight, which is considerably in excess of anticipated production.

XXX